

ming over with jovial good nature. In his death at scarcely three score years the community suffered a distinct loss. While Elder Armstrong strictly speaking was more of a business man than an ecclesiastical his integrity to God and to the Church to which he gave his allegiance, was never doubted by those who knew him. He would have given his life for the cause of Christ, had it been required of him, and his whole life might be called the versification of the promise made by the Savior of the world: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all other things shall be added unto you."

Armstrong, Isabella Siddoway, wife of the late Mayor Francis Armstrong and the second president of the Daughters of the Handcart Pioneers, was born Nov. 28, 1849, in North Cumberland, England, the daughter of



Robert Siddoway and Elizabeth Dawson. Her parents joined the Church in 1855, and Isabella was baptized in 1859. The family being anxious to gather with the Saints in Utah emigrated to America in 1865, but owing to sickness they were forced to

New York and four years in Pennsylvania. In the meantime Sister Siddoway (the mother of Isabella) died in Pennsylvania, and the father found it a difficult task indeed to cross the plains with his three motherless children (Isabella, ten years, Richard, eight years and Robert, six years old). They left Florence June 7, 1860, in Capt. Daniel Robinson's handcart company, which arrived in Salt Lake City Sept. 27, 1860. Isabella, who walked nearly all the way across the plains, gives the following brief account of the journey and her early experience in Utah: "The journey being longer than we expected, our clothing, shoes and provisions grew very scanty long before we reached our destination. Our shoes were so badly worn that at night, after a long day's walk over the rough ground, I would have to pick the pebbles from my little brother's torn and bleeding feet, as well as my own. When we were near Laramie, Wyoming, our provisions grew very short, so much so that each person was rationed to one-half pound of flour a day. Sister Hannah Lapish, one of the members of our company, had some jewelry she had brought from England with her. She took it to a trading post, and exchanged it for seven hundred pounds of flour, which greatly relieved our want until we were met by a relief party at Green River, sent out by President Brigham Young, with 2500 pounds of flour and 500 pounds of bacon which lasted us until we reached the Valley. We were very fortunate in only having one death during our journey, and that being a little child. After arriving in Salt Lake City, we looked upon the then almost barren country, and compared it to the green fields and comfortable homes we had left in old England. Was it any wonder that we were hart-sick and disappointed with our new surroundings? With a little

band of people, a scattered house and a green field here and there, very little to eat and less to wear, the first few years of our new home-making was very trying. But with one aim, and having been driven from place to place on account of their religious belief, which made them almost as united as one large family, this little band of courageous people turned a desert into the beautiful city we now have." In 1864 (Dec. 10th) Sister Isabella was married to Brother Francis Armstrong and became the mother of eleven children, three boys and eight girls. At the present time (1914) she is the mother of thirty-seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. In 1910 the society known as the Daughters of the Handcart Pioneers was organized with Hannah Lapish as president. Two years later (1912) Sister Armstrong was chosen president of that society, and still acts in that capacity. "Of this position," writes Sister Armstrong, "I am very proud, as it has been one of the greatest pleasures of my life to help, in a small way, to build up an organization which will perpetuate the names of the most courageous people the world has ever known".

LITTLE, Feramorz, mayor of Salt Lake City three consecutive terms, was born June 14, 1820, in the town of Aurelius, Cayuga, county, N. Y. He migrated to Utah in September, 1850. His father James Little emigrated to America from Ireland early in the nineteenth century, and family records show that in the year 1690 his ancestors passed over from England to the Green Isle. The mother of Feramorz was Susan Young, a sister of Pres. Brigham Young. When Feramorz was but four years old his father died, leaving him with two brothers wholly dependent upon their widowed mother. In the early days of "Mormonism" Susan Little joined the Church and

moved west with her brothers who were all prominent members of the "Mormon" community. For a penniless youth the Great West had many attractions and Feramorz Little at the age of 23 decided to follow his mother and relatives. In 1843 he left his native State and traveled on horseback to St. Louis, Mo., where he met his brother after a separation of ten years. There and in Illinois he engaged in farming, school teaching and the grocery business. At Nauvoo, in



1846, he married Fannie M. Decker (sister to Lucy and Clara Decker who were the wives of Pres. Brigham Young.) In 1850 Feramorz, desiring to see his mother and relatives who had emigrated to Utah, contracted with Mrs. Livingston and Kincaid, non-Mormon merchants of Salt Lake City, to freight goods to this point from Ft. Kearney, on the Missouri river. At that time he was in business at St. Louis and not yet connected with the "Mormons". He arrived in Salt Lake City, Sept. 23, 1850. His objective point was California, but in finding ample scope for his ambition in Utah, he became a Latter-day Saint and subsequently one of the Bishopric of the Thirteenth Ward, in which part



FERAMORZ LITTLE
Born June 14, 1820, Auriesville, N. Y.
Came to Utah in 1851. Vice-President
Deseret National Bank. 290

LITTLE, FERAMORZ (son of James M Little and Susan Young, of Seneca county, N. Y.). Born June 14, 1820, Auriesville, Cayuga county, N. Y. Came to Utah 1851. Married Fannie M. Decker Feb. 12, 1846, Nauvoo, Ill. Brigham Young performing ceremony (daughter of Isaac Decker and Harriet Page of New York, pioneers July 24, 1847, Brigham Young company). She was born April 24, 1830. Their children: James Tyler, m. Alice S. Souja; Juliett, m. Adelbert Roundy; Clair Susan, m. Bradley Cawson; Roselle L., m. Fredrick W. Gardiner; Janet Viola, m. John Relysimar; Frank C., m. Minerva Anderson. Family home, Salt Lake City.
Seventy; first counselor to Bishop Wooley of 13th ward. Vice president Deseret National bank; mayor; banker and capitalist. Died Aug. 14, 1886, Salt Lake City. 1008

LITTLE, JAMES TYLER (son of Feramor Little and Fannie M. Decker). Born Sept. 13, 1848, St. Louis, Mo. Came to Utah with father 1851. Married Alice S. Souja June 5, 1883, Salt Lake City, his father performing ceremony (daughter of Theofal Souja and Mary Bowldidge, Paris, France, latter pioneers 1864, Captain DeLamar company). She was born Aug. 3, 1862. Their children: James J. b. May 15, 1884, d. aged 6; Fannie

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M. b. Aug. 6, 1885, m. Joseph W. Stringfellow; Clair B. b. Jan. 20, 1887; Alice S. b. March 11, 1890, d. infant; Romaine E. b. Jan. 30, 1892; Feramorz I. b. April 5, 1894; Decker J. b. March 27, 1897. Family home, Salt Lake City.
President Deseret Savings Bank; director Deseret National Bank; banker and capitalist. Died Feb. 27, 1898.

of the City he resided. In 1858 he married Miss Annie E. Little and Miss Julia A. Hampton. Soon after his arrival in Utah he showed his industrial activity by building a dam, the first across the Jordan river, at a cost of \$12,000, and constructing the first canal that took water from that stream for purposes of irrigation. In the summer of 1851 he contracted with S. H. Woodson to carry the United States mail between Salt Lake City and Fort Laramie, a distance of more than five hundred miles, with no settlement and but one trading post—Ft. Bridger—between. His partners in the contract, which lasted until January, 1853, were Chas. Decker and Ephraim K. Hanks, his brother-in-law. During the two winters the mail carriers endured the greatest hardships, scarcity of food and fuel, blinding snow-storms and almost impassable mountains being a few of the difficulties encountered; but the trips were successfully made. Mr. Little's experience and forethought often saved his companions from suffering and death. In 1856 he contracted to carry the mail between Salt Lake City and Independence, Missouri. The carriers now traveled with mules and a light wagon; formerly pack animals had been used. They encountered the usual obstacles, making at times but eight miles a day, and subsisting on parched corn and raw buffalo meat. The trip to Independence consumed three months. Arriving here early in 1857, Bro. Little with Bro. Hanks, found the inhabitants in a state of excitement over the sensational anti-Mormon reports set in circulation by Judge Drummond, who with other slanderers of the people of Utah had made the nation believe that the "Mormons" were in a state of rebellion against the government. These reports Mr. Little denounced as false. Having occasion to go to Washington, D. C., to collect his money for carry-

ing the mails, he went on to New York where he wrote to the "Herald" of that city, refuting the foul calumnies. Continuing his industrial career, Mr. Little conducted a flouring mill at the mouth of Parley's canyon, making his home there in the early days. In his youth he had worked in the leather business, and this doubtless led him to engage in tanning at that place, where he had as his partners in this industry his uncle, Pres. Young, and John R. Winder. He also carried on blacksmithing and shoemaking and established a school for his children and those of his workmen. He built five saw mills in the canyons of the Wasatch range, and for years carried on a prosperous lumbering business. He was the builder of the "Utah penitentiary on its present site. In 1859 he brought large quantities of merchandise from Omaha to Salt Lake City and in 1863 was appointed emigration agent for the Church. Under his supervision five hundred teams were fitted out, carrying three thousand emigrants, and involving an outlay of one hundred thousand dollars. In 1865 he, with Pres. Young, purchased the Salt Lake House, then the leading local hotel. It was on the east side of Main Street, about midway between First and Second South streets. He remained its proprietor for several years. When the railroad came, he engaged as a contractor in building the Union Pacific Railroad, and subsequently was superintendent of the Utah Central and Utah Southern lines, holding the latter position until 1872, when he went abroad with Pres. Geo. A. Smith and party on their tour of Europe and the Orient. His extensive business interests were ably managed in his absence by his son, James T. Little. Accompanied by his daughter Clara (now Mrs. H. B. Clawson, jun.) he left home with the Palestine party in November, 1872. The object of this visit to that land was

to bless it, that the curse of barrenness and desolation might be removed, and it again become fruitful and fitted for the return of the scattered tribes of Israel. Accordingly on March 2, 1873, Pres. Smith and party ascended the Mount of Olives, where the sacred ceremony was performed. Going and coming they visited the principal cities and places of interest in Europe, Egypt and Asia Minor. In France they had an interview with President Thiers and visited the French Assembly. The Littles returned home in May, 1873. Two years later Feramor Little and his brother James filled a mission to the Eastern States, calling upon numerous relatives in New York, and obtaining a genealogical record of their father's ancestors. Liberal in their views, they were generally treated with courtesy while preaching, and succeeded in removing from the minds of the people many false impressions concerning "Mormonism". Among other points of interest touched by their travels were the Hill Cumorah, in Wayne county, N. Y., and the Temple site in Jackson co., Missouri. During the last few years of his life Bro. Little occupied various positions of public trust. He was one of the Board of Regents of the University of Deseret and a member of the Salt Lake City council. In 1876 he was elected mayor of Salt Lake City, serving in that capacity, as stated, for three consecutive terms. During the period of his mayoralty the Salt Lake and Jordan Canal was constructed under his supervision, the streets improved, the water works extended, and the purchase of Liberty Park and Pioneer Square effected. In the latter part of his life, he gave special attention to banking. He was a director of the Deseret National Bank and virtually one of its founders. At the time of his death he was its vice-president. He was also a director of the Orden National Bank, and

was likewise interested in Z. C. M. I. In June, 1881, Bro. Little sustained a severe loss in the death of his wife, Fannie. As already stated, he had married two other wives; but he was again a single man when he married Rebecca E. Mantle. While visiting the Blackfoot Ranch, of which he was president, he was stricken with a severe illness, and it was aggravated by the journey home, which required three days. Typhoid fever set in, terminating his earthly existence Aug. 14, 1887. His death was universally regretted. He was recognized as one of Utah's ablest business men and foremost citizens. As a man of honesty and integrity, he manifested eminent administrative ability, and marked devotion to the public welfare. He was loved by both rich and poor for his keen sense of justice and great kindness of heart. Disliking ostentation, he distributed large sums in benevolence and charity of which only his family and most intimate friends were aware. Among the evidences of his philanthropic spirit is a row of comfortable cottages, built by him for the poor of the Thirteenth Ward and still serving the purpose for which they were erected. Feramor Little was essentially a self-made man, indebted for his success to a kind Providence and the sterling qualities of his nature. (Principally culled from Whitney's History of Utah).

LITTLE, Rebecca Ellen Mantle. wife of Feramor Little, was born Aug. 12, 1852, on the Church farm, Salt Lake county, Utah. She was the daughter of Llewellyn Mantle and Catherine Watkins and was baptized when about eight years of age. From her earliest youth she was of a very ambitious character, and struggled to obtain an education, although handicapped in every way. She worked unceasingly until she was able to teach school after which her whole time was con-

pied in teaching and further educating herself. She was graduated from the normal school under Dr. John R. Park, and was teaching a school in the Thirteenth Ward when she first met Fera-morz Little. They were married in July, 1882, and two children were born to them (Vivian L. and Catherine



L.). Sister Little continued her studies after her marriage and was graduated from the University of Utah in 1899, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. About this time she became associated with a number of woman's clubs and was the founder of the Authors Club. On one occasion Sister Little was chosen for the National Council of Woman and gave an address at the convention in Chicago, Ill. She was a regent of the University of Utah for about ten years, served on the general board of the Relief Society and on the Stake Board of Ensign Stake. The death of her husband was a great blow to her and in order to overcome her sorrow she studied music and art and became very efficient in those lines. Sister Little died in Salt Lake City May 29, 1909. In history she ranks as one of the best educated women of Utah; she was unceasing in her determination to gain an educa-

tion and up to the time of her death she kept abreast with the educational systems of the world.

THOMAS, Chas. John, a prominent and active Elder in the 13th Ward. Salt Lake City, Utah, was born Nov. 20, 1832, in Burnley, Lancashire, England, the son of Joseph K. Thomas and Margaret Spotswood. When but seven years of age, he exhibited natural ability for music and at the age of nine he played with his father in an orchestra at the Theatre Royal, New Castle-on-Tyne. While still a lad he went to London and studied harmony under the tutorship of Professor Thirwall of the Theatre Royal Covent Garden, and he graduated



with honors. Soon after becoming a convert to "Mormonism" in 1851, Charles took sick and continued to grow worse until his life was despaired of and the doctor said he would die. His father's heart was touched and he exclaimed: "My son, if there is anything on earth that you wish and I can get for you, you shall have it." Charles asked that the Latter-day Saint Elders be sent for to pray for him. The Elders came, and after they had administered to him, he was

instantly healed. This miraculous manifestation of the power of God led his father to investigate the claims of "Mormonism", and soon afterwards the whole family joined the Church. Commencing with 1853 Charles traveled with an Italian opera company for three years from London to Scotland under the direction of the great Carl Anchutze. In 1854 he published some of his compositions which were played at several London theatres. In 1856 he was offered the position of band master on board "H. M. S. Great Marlborough" but had to decline the honor on account of poor health. After being a member of the Church for ten years, he set sail for America with a large company of emigrating saints who crossed the Atlantic in the ship "William Tapscott" which sailed from Liverpool May 11, 1860, and arrived in New York June 20th following. During his temporary sojourn in the State of New York, he filled a number of engagements in several theatres in the city of New York. To Professor Thomas belongs the distinction and honor of being the first orchestral leader for the Salt Lake Theatre and for being the first to receive a testimonial benefit in that historic house. He was also musical director of the first male glee club in Salt Lake City, which was organized, under the name of the "Union Glee Club", March 17, 1876, with a membership of sixteen, which soon increased to twenty-four. Most of the members were considered at that time the best vocalists in the City, including Messrs. Henry Gardner, Duncan M. McAllister, William Foster, A. C. Smyth, Orson F. Whitney, Ebenezer Beesley, and a number of other well known names; the object of the organization was mutual improvement in the Divine art of vocal music and to assist in charitable purposes. From 1875 to 1885 Brother Thomas had charge of the Temple block by special appointment from

the presidency of the Church. In 1885 to 1887 he filled a mission to Great Britain, laboring principally in the Yorkshire, Birmingham and London conferences. After his return from that mission, he was again placed in charge of the Temple block, which position he held till 1908. From the time of the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple in 1893 to the present time he has led the Temple choir. In the musical world Bro. Thomas is widely known as a composer of music, having written for orchestral, instrumental and vocal works. As early as 1858 he wrote his famous anthem on the Book of Mormon, commencing with "Harken, O Gentiles". This was undoubtedly the first anthem ever written from that sacred volume. He also composed "Harken and Lo a Voice" from the Doctrine and Covenants in 1859, which perhaps was the first poetical effusion which had that book for its basis. While yet a young man he was sent to St. George by Pres. Brigham Young to teach vocal and instrumental music, remaining there about three years. After that he resided in Beaver two and a half years, after which he was called back to Salt Lake City. Soon after his arrival in Utah in 1861 he attained to the captaincy of a band which was called the Thomas band. Before he left his native country he married Charlotte Gibbs in London (in 1854), by whom he became the father of one son. Bro. Thomas is remembered as the man who led a male chorus of seventy voices to victory in June, 1892, taking the first prize at a singing contest given under the auspices of the mutual improvement associations in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City. One of his colleagues in the music world, speaking of Prof. Thomas, says: "In summing up this noble, earnest teacher's work, it may be said that his advent into these valleys marked an epoch in the early musical history of